

## President Bush's Historic Investment in Education

### *2005 Budget Good News for Maine's Children*

The President's 2005 budget proposal would increase federal education funding to \$57.3 billion—an increase of 36 percent since the President took office. Despite all the priorities competing for our tax dollars—strengthening our economy and defending our nation—the President's budget reflects his strong commitment to education.

### Highlights of the President's 2005 Budget Proposal

- ❖ **Title I Program funding increases to \$13.3 billion** for students in high-poverty schools. The President requested an increase of \$1 billion over the 2004 level, or 52 percent over 2001 levels.
- ❖ **Special Education Grants to States Program would receive a record \$11.1 billion.** This represents the President's fourth consecutive request for a \$1 billion increase to support children with disabilities—a 75 percent increase over the funding level when the President took office and the highest level of federal support ever requested for children with disabilities.
- ❖ **Pell Grant Program would receive \$12.9 billion** to support 5.3 million needy recipients in the 2005-06 school year. Since President Bush took office, the number of Pell Grant recipients has grown by one million students. Included in this increase is the President's \$33 million request for new **Enhanced Pell Grants for State Scholars** to provide up to an additional \$1,000 for freshmen who took challenging courses in high school.
- ❖ **Reading funding increases to a total \$1.4 billion**, including \$1.1 billion for the Reading First program, \$132 million for Early Reading First programs, and \$100 million for the Striving Readers program to meet the President's goal of ensuring every child can read on grade level.
- ❖ **Choice and options for students and parents expand to \$504 million**—an additional \$113 million—to empower families to find schools that best meet the needs of children who most need help.
- ❖ **Teachers would receive \$5.1 billion** in support through training, recruitment, incentives, loan forgiveness and tax relief, up from \$4.4 billion in 2004.
- ❖ **State accountability systems to receive \$410 million** to support annual assessments in grades 3 through 8 that provide vital information to ensure each child is achieving on grade level.
- ❖ **Educational research funding expands to \$185 million**—an increase of \$19.5 million—to support research, development and dissemination of information to ensure students and teachers benefit from sound, research-based programs.
- ❖ **English language acquisition support increases to \$681 million** to support children who are still learning the English language so they can achieve their full potential in school and in life.

### How the President's Budget Will Help Maine's Children and Families

- ❖ Increases federal education funding in Maine to \$455.3 million—39% more than when the President took office.
- ❖ Provides an additional \$90 million to help Maine implement the reforms of *No Child Left Behind*.
- ❖ Increases Title I funding to \$46.9 million—\$13.6 million over 2001 levels—to help Maine's neediest children.
- ❖ Increases Special Education Grants for Maine to \$57.4 million—\$21 million over 2001 levels.
- ❖ Provides \$46 million in Federal Pell Grants to help ensure a college education for Maine students who otherwise might not be able to afford one.
- ❖ Provides Maine with \$222.5 million in funding for new Federal Student Loans that ensure greater access to a college education for more young people.
- ❖ Provides access to \$3.1 million in Reading First funding to ensure that every child in Maine learns to read by the third grade.
- ❖ Provides \$14 million to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in Maine classrooms.
- ❖ Provides \$4 million for annual assessments so every mom and dad in Maine will know how well their children are learning and where they need improvement.
- ❖ Provides \$500 thousand to support students in Maine who are learning the English language.

*Source: U.S. Department of Education Budget Service. All dollar amounts are estimates as of 8/4/04.  
For more information about the No Child Left Behind Act, please visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).*